Gauge conversion of Dharmavaram-Pakala section

3147. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that gauge conversion project is currently being executed in the Dharmavaram-Pakala section;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount of funds allocated for the project in the budgets of 2005-06 and 2006-07;

(d) whether any additional funds would be sanctioned for the project;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The work if gauge conversion of Dharmavaram-Pakala section (227 k.m.) is an ongoing work for which earthwork & bridgeworks between Pakala-Madanapalli (84 k.m.) have been taken up. An expenditure of Rs. 2.52 crore was incurred during 2005-06 against an outlay of Rs. 2.00 crore during 2005-06. An outlay of Rs. 11.51 crore has been provided for the work in Budget 2006-07.

(d) to (f) The demand for additional funds for the project would be given due consideration during the year based upon physical progress achieved and the overall availability of resources.

Upgradation of platforms at New Delhi station

†3148. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether four platforms of New Delhi Railway Station are being made compatible to 24 coaches;

(b) the number of trains which are running with 24 coaches at present;

(c) whether platforms of those stations having stoppages of such trains are compatible to 24 coaches; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) if not, whether Government propose to make those platforms also compatible to 24 coaches at the earliest, so that, passengers may not face any inconvenience?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Platform No. 10, 11 & 12 at New Delhi station are already compatible for 24 coaches trains. Works on seven platforms *i.e.* platform No. 3 to 9 have been planned to accommodate 24 coach trains.

(b) 24 pairs of trains are presently running with 24 coaches.

(c) and (d) Platform of most of such stations where 24 coach trains stops, are compatible to 24 coach. The works at remaining identified stations are planned to be completed in the current year.

Closing of railway crossing at Aishbagh

†3149. SHRI BANWARI LAL KANCHHAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a railway bridge near Aishbagh station in Lucknow and Aishbagh, Tilak Nagar and other localities are situated under it nearby;

(b) whether it is a fact that the railway crossing under the Aishbagh bridge has been closed due to which the local citizens are facing a lot of difficulties;

(c) whether his Ministry would consider to open this railway crossing built under the Aishbagh bridge in public interest; and

(d) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. The level crossing under the Aishbagh Road Over Bridge has been closed so far. The Road Over Bridge has already been constructed in lieu of the level crossing which is to be closed as per terms of agreement of cost sharing entered with the State Government.

(c) and (d) As per extant rules, level crossings having more than one lakh TVUs (Train Vehicle Units) are taken up for replacement by Road Over/Under Bridges on cost sharing basis. However, before the work is sponsored the State Government is required to furnish assurance

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.